This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**II. Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid, comprising:

preparing a liquid gel concentrate comprised of ~~an aqueous formate solution,~~ at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer dispersed in an aqueous formate solution, and inhibiting hydration of the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer using formate alone, or together with an inhibitor in the gel concentrate, and the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer yielding ~~which yields~~ viscosity upon hydration, the unhydrated hydratable polymer comprising a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar, and being present in the concentrate in an amount of from about 100 to about 6000 lbs/1000 gals. of the aqueous formate solution~~, and an inhibitor for inhibiting the hydration of the hydratable polymer~~; and

diluting the concentrate with water to hydrate the hydratable polymer.

2. (Original) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous formate solution of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a formate selected from the group consisting of potassium formate, sodium formate and cesium formate.

3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a boron compound.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of the liquid gel concentrate comprises a pH adjusting compound.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 7 wherein the pH adjusting compound comprises sodium hydroxide.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 1 wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises at least one suspending agent for suspending the hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.

10. (Original) A method of forming a high viscosity aqueous treating fluid according to claim 9 wherein the suspending agent of the liquid gel concentrate is selected from the group consisting of succinoglucan biopolymer and welan gum.

11. (Currently Amended) A liquid gel concentrate composition, comprising:

~~an aqueous formate solution;~~

at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer dispersed in an aqueous formate solution, wherein formate alone, or together with an inhibitor in the aqueous formate solution, inhibits hydration of the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer, wherein the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer ~~which~~ yields viscosity upon hydration, the unhydrated hydratable polymer comprising a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar, and being present in an amount of from about 100 to about 6000 lbs/1000 gals. of the aqueous formate solution~~; and~~

~~an inhibitor for inhibiting the hydration of the hydratable polymer~~.

12. (Original) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11 wherein the formate solution comprises a formate selected from the group consisting of potassium formate, sodium formate and cesium formate.

13-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the inhibitor comprises a boron compound.

18. (Previously Presented) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim11, wherein the inhibitor comprises a pH adjusting compound.

19. (Original) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 18, wherein the pH adjusting compound comprises sodium hydroxide.

20. (Original) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the liquid gel concentrate further comprises a suspending agent for suspending the hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.

21. (Previously Presented) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 20 wherein the suspending agent is selected from the group consisting of succinoglucan biopolymer and welan gum.

22. (New) A liquid gel concentrate composition according to claim 11, wherein the formate disperses and suspends the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer in the gel concentrate.

23. (New) A liquid gel concentrate composition, comprising:

at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer dispersed in an aqueous sodium formate solution, wherein sodium formate together with an inhibitor comprising a boron compound and a pH adjusting compound in the aqueous formate solution, inhibits hydration of the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer, wherein the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer yields viscosity upon hydration, the unhydrated hydratable polymer comprising a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of guar gum, depolymerized hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethyl guar and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar, and being present in an amount of from about 100 to about 6000 lbs/1000 gals. of the aqueous sodium formate solution; and

a suspending agent comprises a succinoglucan biopolymer for suspending the at least one unhydrated hydratable polymer in the liquid gel concentrate.